

Application No. 09/975,698
Amendment dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 21, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-13, and 20-23 are pending in the application after this amendment. The amendments and/or cancellation of claims is not to be considered in anyway an indication of applicant's position on the merits of the amended and/or cancelled claims. The rejections set forth by the Examiner in the October 21, 2003 Office action are respectfully traversed, but for purposes of obtaining an early allowance, applicant has amended and/or cancelled the claims to put the application in a condition for allowance.

If further amendments or cancellations are necessary to obtain an allowance, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact applicant's representative and/or prepare an Examiner's amendment.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested and early notice of allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2115 for any additional fees which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,



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